



Senator Carol Liu *Veterans Outreach*

The BACKGROUND

With the drawdowns of the U.S. military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan currently underway, the United States is set to experience a significant influx of veterans returning home. Each year, the State of California is estimated to receive 35,000 of those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. California is already home to the nation's largest veteran population, almost 2 million, and the addition of the recently and soon-to-be discharged vets will only increase the State's responsibility to all of these brave men and women.

In recognition of this, Senator Carol Liu has re-committed herself and the resources available to her office to address the most critical and pressing issues facing veterans. Sen. Liu also acknowledges the tremendous sacrifice that the families of veterans have made and is concerned about the problems they experience as a result of their veteran's service.

The MISSION

To ensure that the 21st Senate District and the entire State of California are welcoming, dedicated, and generous places for veterans to reside and reintegrate into the society they selflessly defended. The foundation of this commitment is that it extends to every single veteran: men and women, combat and combat support, recently discharged to WWII era and every service member in between.

The PLAN

Sen. Liu will continue to convene meetings with relevant stakeholders including veterans, their families, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other community groups and individuals interested in properly honoring our veterans through service and aid. These meetings are intended to identify the specific obstacles veterans are confronted with in trying to access and utilize the many resources available to them. So far, conversations previously held have led to discovery of recurring themes in the following areas: **education, employment, families of veterans, healthcare, and housing.**

In addition to regular meetings, Sen. Liu will host quarterly public panel discussions and roundtables to further the dialogue surrounding ways in which we can deal with and eliminate the barriers to healthy, successful lives for our veterans. Resource events will also be incorporated to directly deliver information and services to veterans.

The EXECUTION

On May 5, 2012, the first in the series of veterans outreach events hosted by Sen. Liu was held in Glendale, CA. The panel discussion focused on education and employment opportunities and obstacles for veterans. The information and ideas shared by the participants was genuinely beneficial and became the launch point for what projects to be an effective, pragmatic effort.